

REMARKS

The indication of allowability of claims 4, 8, 12 and 18 is acknowledged and appreciated. So as to expedite allowance of the application including the substantively allowed claim, and without disclaimer or prejudice to include claims directed to subject matter of the cancelled claims or any other supported by the present disclosure in a subsequent continuing application, the allowable claims have been rewritten in independent form. In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 4, the latter being cancelled. Instead of rewriting claim 8, these limitations have been incorporated into claim 15 as is further amended to comport with the language of claim 1. Claim 12 is rewritten in independent form as new claim 22. New claims 23-30 depend from new claim 22, each reciting additional limitations as previously presented by original claims 2, 3, 5 and 8-12.

The Double Patenting issue is rendered moot by the present amendment rewriting claim 15 to correspond to the subject matter of claim 8 in independent form. Similarly, the rejection of claims 6, 7, 20 and 21 is likewise no longer at issue with the cancellation of those claims.

In summary, all pending claims now incorporate subject matter indicated to be allowable. Accordingly, the present application as amended is considered to be in condition for allowance and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

A check for the amount of \$182.00 for payment of the additional claim fees and petition for a one-month extension of time is enclosed. In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: August 24, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

Michael J. Strauss

Registration No.: 32,443

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

801 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20004-2623

(202) 662-0200